

REMARKS

The application is believed to be in condition for allowance.

Claims 1-54 are pending, claims 1, 20, 40, and 47 being independent.

Claims 1-7, 10-19, 20-25, and 28-39 stand rejected as obvious over DOI (JP 03-116898) in view of MURAMATSU et al. 5,703,665.

Claims 8, 9, 26, and 27 stand rejected as obvious over DOI in view of MURAMATSU et al. and further in view of ASAI et al. 6,409,159.

Claims 40-54 stand rejected as obvious over ASAI et al. in view of DOI and further in view of MURAMATSU et al.

Claim 1 has been reformatted to clarify the recited features of the invention. In claim 1, there is recited **a signal processing circuit substrate** having a through-hole formed through the substrate.

DOI fails to disclose a substrate corresponding to the recited signal processing circuit substrate. The printed substrate 12 of DOI does not correspond to the signal processing circuit substrate recited in, e.g., claim 1. The printed substrate 12 is not designed to include a through-hole and a mounting member.

The printed substrate 13 in DOI also does not correspond to the signal processing circuit substrate because the printed substrate 13 is not designed to include a mounting member. See claim 1 recites **a mounting member positioned opposite the through-hole and electrically connected at an edge thereof to a first surface of the signal processing circuit substrate.**

The next recitation is to a variable value device (e.g., a varistor) electrically and mechanically mounted on a first surface of the mounting member, such a device having a variable value and including a value adjustment portion through which the variable value is adjusted. The final recitation is that the value adjustment portion faces the through-hole.

DOI discloses in Figure 1, a resistor 16 which is variable. The resistor 16 is mounted on first printed circuit board 12. There is an insertion hole 17 on a second board 13. The first and second boards are spaced apart by way of elements 14. However, as discussed above, neither board meets the requirements as to the recited signal processing circuit substrate.

The Official Action acknowledges that DOI does not disclose the printed circuit board being located on opposite edges of a signal processing circuit substrate. For this

feature, MURAMATSU et al. is offered. The Official Action refers to interposing units located at the vertices of an isosceles triangle (column 1, lines 52-62 and column 2, lines 1-3). Referring to Figure 3 of MURAMATSU et al., these interposing units are identified as Q1-Q3. The specification discloses these as being spacer elements to separate the elements comprising a liquid crystal display.

Applicants understand the Official Action to be applying the teaching of MURAMATSU et al. as being obvious to put spacers at parameter locations between two board elements of a liquid crystal display.

Even if DOI is modified in this manner, the recited structure of the rejected claims does not result.

Referring to claim 1, see that there is recited **a signal processing circuit substrate having a through-hole**. This recitation must necessarily read on second printed circuit board 13 of DOI. Claim 1 also recites **a mounting member positioned opposite the through-hole and electrically connected at an edge thereof to a first surface of the signal processing circuit substrate**. The resistor 16 of DOI is not mounted to such a mounting member. See that resistor 16 of DOI is mounted to amplifier 19 which, in turn, is mounted to first printed circuit board 12.

Accordingly, the recitations of claim 1 are non-obvious over the combination of DOI plus MURAMATSU et al. as this combination would not teach all the recited features of the claim.

In view of the above, independent claim 1 as well as the claims depending therefrom, is believed to be allowable.

The Official Action also rejected independent claim 20 in view of these same references. Independent claim 20 as well as the claims depending therefrom, is believed to be allowable for the reasons outlined above.

The rejection of claims 40-54 (including independent claims 40 and 47) appears to be based on using techniques taught by ASAI et al. as applied to the offered combination of DOI and MURAMATSU et al. As the combination of DOI and MURAMATSU et al. does not teach the recited structure, it follows that the combination with the further method teachings of ASAI cannot render obvious the recited method steps.

For example, see the different recited steps of bending a flexible member. No such flexible member has been identified in DOI and accordingly, the required flexible member is unavailable for bending.

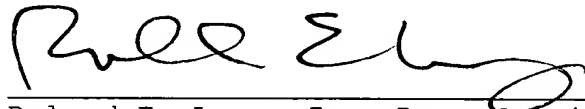
In summary, the proposed combination does not result in the structure recited and cannot result in the recited method,

the structure being necessary to execute the recited method being unavailable. In view of this, reconsideration and allowance of all the pending claims are respectfully requested.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 25-0120 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17.

Respectfully submitted,

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